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Florida, State Board of Health. Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Maternal Mortality

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State Board of Health
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
Jacksonville, Florida

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN FLORIDA

August 1, 1949

The tables and graphs of this report on maternal mortality are designed to acquaint all interested persons with Florida's standing in regard to maternal deaths. Maternal deaths include all deaths as a result of conditions arising from pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium.

In 1948, there were 115 resident maternal deaths in Florida and the death rate was 1.9 per thousand live births. This is the lowest maternal death rate on record in this state and it represents a decrease of 70% since 1940. The colored maternal death rate of 4.2 was almost 4 times as high as the white rate of 1.1 per thousand live births.

Florida's maternal death rate is still higher than the National average. Data issued by the National Office of Vital Statistics for the year 1947 (the latest year for which final data for all states has been released) showed Florida as being in 44th place when compared with other states. Only four states (Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina) had a higher maternal mortality rate, and all of the above are neighboring states.

Table A gives a comparison of maternal mortality rates (per 1,000 live births), by color, for Florida and the United States from 1933 to 1948. The rate for the United States in 1948 is a provisional figure, since final data has not yet been made available by the National Office of Vital Statistics.

Graph 1 shows the trend in maternal mortality rates in Florida and the United States from 1933 to 1948, while Graph 2 shows the trend in maternal mortality rates in Florida, by color, for the same period. These graphs are based upon the data contained in Table A.

Table B gives the live births distributed according to the age of the mother, maternal deaths according to age of death, and maternal mortality rates by age groups. The largest number of births for both white and colored was in the 20-24 age group which also had the lowest maternal mortality rate. The highest maternal mortality rate for both white and colored was in the 35-39 age group.

The resident maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) for Florida in 1944-1948 was 2.6. Charlotte County had the lowest rate with no maternal deaths while Liberty County had the highest rate of 10.7. Table C gives the number of maternal deaths for each year from 1944 to 1948, the number of live births for the combined period, and the maternal mortality for each county for 1944-1948 arranged in order of magnitude.

The maternal mortality rate in Table C is given for the combined period of 1944-1948 because rates based upon a small number of events must be interpreted with caution. Even with the combined period, the reader must keep an open mind in interpreting data in this table.

Table D gives the maternal deaths by cause, by year, by color, together with the corresponding maternal mortality rates. The combined maternal deaths and maternal mortality rates are also shown for the entire period. Puerperal Toxemias (List No. 148) was the leading cause of maternal deaths for 1944-1948 while infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium (List No. 147) was the second highest cause.

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TABLE A. RESIDENT MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES (Per 1,000 Live Births) BY COLOR, FLORIDA AND THE UNITED STATES, 1933 - 1948

YEAR	FLORIDA			UNITED STATES		
	TOTAL	WHITE	COLORED	TOTAL	WHITE	COLORED
1948	1.9	1.1	4.2	1.2*	*	*
1947	2.2	1.3	5.0	1.3	1.1	3.3
1946	2.9	1.9	5.9	1.6	1.3	3.6
1945	2.9	1.8	6.0	2.1	1.7	4.3
1944	3.3	2.3	6.0	2.3	1.9	5.1
1943	3.5	2.7	6.1	2.5	2.1	5.1
1942	4.0	2.5	8.0	2.6	2.2	5.4
1941	6.1	4.5	10.0	3.2	2.7	6.8
1940	6.4	5.0	9.8	3.8	3.2	7.7
1939	6.4	5.5	8.5	4.0	3.5	7.6
1938	7.6	5.5	12.6	4.4	3.8	8.5
1937	6.7	5.2	10.1	4.9	4.4	8.6
1936	7.9	6.2	12.0	5.7	5.1	9.7
1935	8.6	7.3	11.7	5.8	5.3	9.5
1934	8.3	6.9	11.6	5.9	5.5	9.0
1933	11.1	8.9	15.9	6.2	5.7	9.7

*Provisional data. Not available by color.

TABLE B. RESIDENT BIRTHS, MATERNAL DEATHS, AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES (Per 1,000 Live Births) BY AGE GROUPS, BY COLOR, FLORIDA, 1948

AGE OF MOTHER	BIRTHS			MATERNAL DEATHS			MATERNAL MORTALITY		
	TOTAL	WHITE	COLORED	TOTAL	WHITE	COLORED	TOTAL	WHITE	COLORED
10-14	208	43	165	0	0	0	-	-	-
15-19	9,571	5,684	3,887	18	6	12	1.9	1.1	3.1
20-24	19,729	14,673	5,056	21	7	14	1.1	0.5	2.8
25-29	15,239	11,763	3,476	28	10	18	1.8	0.9	5.2
30-34	8,880	6,829	2,051	20	9	11	2.3	1.3	5.4
35-39	4,698	3,410	1,288	24	12	12	5.1	3.5	9.3
40-44	1,127	811	316	4	2	2	3.5	2.5	6.3
45-49	77	39	38	0	0	0	-	-	-
50 and over	3	2	1	0	0	0	-	-	-
Unknown	153	82	71	0	0	0	-	-	-
All Ages	59,685	43,336	16,349	115	46	69	1.9	1.1	4.2

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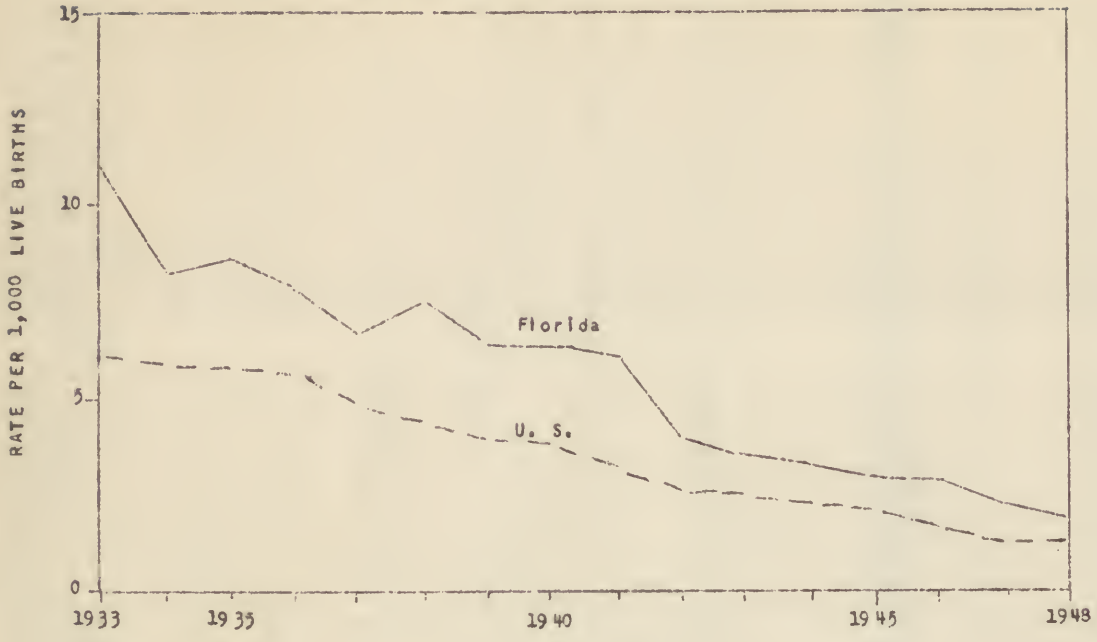
GRAPH 1

RESIDENT MATERNAL MORTALITY (Per 1,000 Live Births), FLORIDA AND THE UNITED STATES, 1933-1948



GRAPH 2

RESIDENT MATERNAL MORTALITY (Per 1,000 Live Births), BY COLOR, FLORIDA, 1933-1948

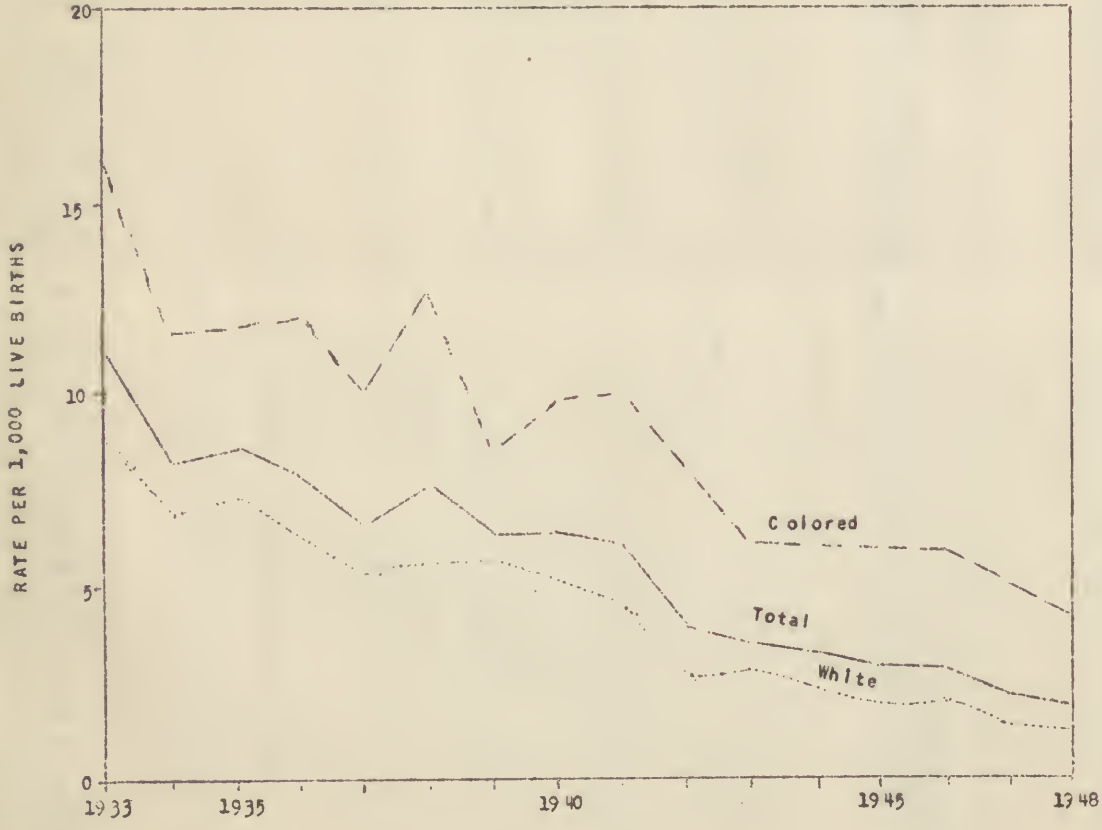


TABLE C. RESIDENT MATERNAL DEATHS (For Each Year), LIVE BIRTHS, AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES (Per 1,000 Live Births), BY COUNTY, FLORIDA, 1944-1948

COUNTIES	MATERNAL DEATHS					LIVE BIRTHS	MATERNAL MORTALITY
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1944 - 1948	1944 - 1948
FLORIDA	160	142	156	135	115	272,258	2.6
1. Charlotte	0	0	0	0	0	345	-
2. Brevard	1	0	0	0	1	2,383	0.8
3. Calhoun	0	0	1	0	0	1,178	0.8
4. Taylor	0	0	0	1	0	1,178	0.8
5. Franklin	1	0	0	0	0	853	1.2
6. Santa Rosa	0	1	0	2	0	2,330	1.3
7. Orange	3	3	2	4	3	10,583	1.4
8. Wakulla	0	0	0	0	1	638	1.6
9. Martin	0	0	0	1	0	626	1.6
10. Indian River	1	0	1	0	0	1,209	1.7
11. Manatee	0	2	0	2	1	3,004	1.7
12. Monroe	2	0	0	1	1	2.305	1.7
13. Hillsboro	15	4	10	9	10	26,659	1.8
14. St. Lucie	2	0	0	2	0	2,163	1.8
15. Sarasota	3	0	1	0	0	2,173	1.8
16. Dade	19	13	19	9	12	38,518	1.9
17. Hardee	0	1	0	0	1	1,034	1.9
18. Seminole	1	1	3	1	0	2,992	2.0
19. Holmes	0	1	1	1	1	1,936	2.1
20. Walton	1	1	1	0	1	1,875	2.1
21. Clay	1	0	0	1	1	1,387	2.2
22. Highlands	0	2	1	1	0	1,809	2.2
23. Polk	6	8	8	5	1	12,527	2.2
24. Sumter	1	0	1	1	0	1,264	2.4
25. Pinellas	4	8	7	5	1	10,523	2.4
26. St. Johns	1	2	2	1	0	2,498	2.4
27. Palm Beach	6	4	6	3	6	10,347	2.4
28. Duval	13	19	20	16	15	33,718	2.5
29. Washington	1	0	1	2	0	1,621	2.5
30. Lafayette	1	0	0	0	0	402	2.5
31. Escambia	9	12	8	5	3	14,407	2.6
32. Bay	2	4	4	2	2	5,219	2.7
33. Okeechobee	1	0	0	0	0	372	2.7
34. Alachua	3	3	3	2	5	5,710	2.8
35. Flagler	1	0	0	0	0	349	2.9
36. Volusia	4	5	2	4	3	6,239	2.9
37. Okaloosa	1	1	2	2	3	3,078	2.9
38. Nassau	2	0	2	1	0	1,653	3.0
39. Osceola	0	0	1	1	1	987	3.0
40. Broward	3	1	5	7	6	6,987	3.1
41. Lee	2	1	3	0	2	2,470	3.2
42. Citrus	0	1	1	0	0	600	3.3
43. Lake	4	3	3	2	0	3,416	3.5
44. Bradford	1	1	0	2	2	1,634	3.7
45. Baker	1	0	2	0	0	815	3.7
46. Leon	8	5	4	5	0	4,936	3.8
47. Madison	3	1	2	2	0	2,037	3.9
48. Jackson	5	5	3	4	2	4,787	4.0
49. Hernando	1	0	1	1	0	751	4.0
50. Pasco	0	1	3	2	1	1,746	4.0
51. Columbia	5	3	0	0	2	2,401	4.1
52. DeSoto	2	1	0	1	0	978	4.1
53. Putnam	2	2	2	1	3	2,216	4.5
54. Glades	0	0	0	0	1	221	4.5
55. Suwannee	4	3	0	2	1	2,194	4.6
56. Gulf	0	0	0	2	3	1,065	4.7
57. Dixie	1	0	0	2	0	637	4.7
58. Hamilton	0	4	1	1	0	1,216	4.9
59. Marion	3	3	6	5	4	3,934	5.3
60. Hendry	1	0	1	2	0	741	5.4
61. Levy	3	1	0	3	0	1,227	5.7
62. Union	2	2	0	0	0	677	5.9
63. Gadsden	2	4	6	3	11	3,756	6.9
64. Gilchrist	1	1	1	0	0	410	7.3
65. Jefferson	2	2	2	3	2	1,404	7.8
66. Collier	0	1	2	0	1	456	8.8
67. Liberty	1	1	1	0	1	374	10.7

TABLE D. RESIDENT MATERNAL DEATHS AND DEATH RATES (Per 1,000 Live Births) BY CAUSE, BY COLOR, FLORIDA, 1944-1948

LIST NO.	CAUSE		MATERNAL DEATHS					5 Year	RATES					5 Year
			1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Rate
140-150	ALL MATERNAL DEATHS	T	160	142	156	135	115	708	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.2	1.9	2.6
		W	86	66	75	59	46	333	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.1	1.6
		C	74	76	80	76	69	375	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8	4.2	5.4
140	Abortion with mention of infection	T	15	10	14	10	6	55	0.30	0.20	0.26	0.17	0.10	0.20
		W	4	5	7	6	4	26	0.11	0.14	0.17	0.13	0.09	0.13
		C	11	5	7	4	2	29	0.89	0.40	0.52	0.26	0.12	0.41
141	Abortion without mention of infection	T	5	7	7	8	3	30	0.10	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.05	0.11
		W	1	5	4	6	1	17	0.03	0.14	0.10	0.13	0.02	0.08
		C	4	2	3	2	2	13	0.33	0.16	0.22	0.13	0.12	0.19
142	Ectopic gestation	T	4	9	11	4	8	36	0.08	0.18	0.20	0.07	0.13	0.13
		W	4	3	6	2	1	16	0.11	0.08	0.15	0.04	0.02	0.08
		C	0	6	5	2	7	20	-	0.48	0.37	0.13	0.43	0.29
143	Hemorrhage of pregnancy (death before delivery)	T	3	3	2	0	1	9	0.06	0.06	0.04	-	0.02	0.03
		W	2	1	2	0	0	5	0.05	0.03	0.05	-	-	0.02
		C	1	2	0	0	1	4	0.08	0.16	-	-	0.06	0.06
144	Toxemias of pregnancy (death before delivery)	T	19	15	11	10	12	67	0.39	0.31	0.20	0.17	0.20	0.25
		W	9	7	2	2	3	23	0.24	0.19	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.11
		C	10	8	9	8	9	44	0.81	0.63	0.66	0.52	0.55	0.63
145	Other diseases and accidents of pregnancy (death before delivery)	T	5	2	3	5	4	19	0.10	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.07
		W	2	0	1	2	0	5	0.05	-	0.02	0.04	-	0.02
		C	3	2	2	3	4	14	0.24	0.16	0.15	0.20	0.24	0.20
146	Hemorrhage of childbirth and the puerperium	T	23	19	30	19	18	109	0.47	0.39	0.55	0.32	0.30	0.40
		W	17	8	17	10	6	58	0.46	0.22	0.42	0.22	0.14	0.29
		C	6	11	13	9	12	51	0.49	0.87	0.96	0.59	0.73	0.73
147	Infection during childbirth and the puerperium	T	33	28	24	20	18	123	0.67	0.57	0.44	0.33	0.30	0.45
		W	15	7	9	9	9	49	0.41	0.19	0.22	0.20	0.21	0.24
		C	18	21	15	11	9	74	1.46	1.66	1.11	0.72	0.55	1.06
148	Puerperal toxemias (excluding death before delivery)	T	30	26	29	20	23	128	0.61	0.53	0.53	0.33	0.39	0.47
		W	18	15	12	7	8	60	0.49	0.41	0.29	0.16	0.18	0.30
		C	12	11	17	13	15	68	0.98	0.87	1.25	0.85	0.92	0.97
149	Other accidents and specified conditions of childbirth	T	14	14	17	26	14	85	0.28	0.29	0.31	0.43	0.23	0.31
		W	10	10	12	10	9	51	0.27	0.28	0.29	0.22	0.21	0.25
		C	4	4	5	16	5	34	0.33	0.32	0.37	1.05	0.31	0.49
150	Other and unspecified conditions of childbirth and the puerperium	T	9	9	8	13	8	47	0.18	0.18	0.15	0.22	0.13	0.17
		W	4	5	4	5	5	23	0.11	0.14	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.11
		C	5	4	4	8	3	24	0.41	0.32	0.30	0.52	0.18	0.34

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